



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

JANUARY 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

JAN. 11, 2023

At Chapter 1's Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Dick Doyle, Bill Ellwood, Michael Murphy, Carl Baldwin, and Cliff Adams. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported a balance of \$116,522.73 in all of the chapter's accounts. Net income from the sale of break-open tickets for the current fiscal year, which began in March, is \$14,215, a corrected figure. Richard noted we have a credit of \$3,688 with the supplier of the break-open tickets, due to an overpayment in December. Richard noted that the proprietor of Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, where the tickets are sold, told him the tickets "are selling like crazy." The report was approved unanimously.

Discussion then turned to how the chapter might choose to allocate its money, in light of the large balance noted in the treasurer's report. A check of records following the meeting showed that our largest contributions in the past have included a total of \$50,000 donated to the Stafford Technical School scholarship program and \$25,000 to a trust fund for maintenance of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"I would say, though, that personally I would rather that we spent some time and gave serious consideration to where we want to make big grants," Richard Reed said. The money's sitting there in the account. That's fine."

He said the chapter was below income limits for non-profits, "so we're not necessarily under any pressure (to spend down the account). . ."

Discussion focused initially on the Dodge House, Rutland's transitional place for homeless veterans. Andy Megrath will check with Chris Morgan, director of the Dodge House, on their possible needs. Richard Reed encouraged taking a look at the facility's longer-term needs to see if the chapter might assist in meeting them. He mentioned ongoing problems with the roof. Tim Lonergan suggested inviting someone from the Dodge House to a meeting of the chapter to discuss needs of the facility. Andy will follow up.

Andy said he would check with Chris, as well as with Richard Gallo, a Vermont veterans outreach specialist who has come to Chapter 1 in the past to assist veterans needing financial help. Michael Murphy said he favored concentrating chapter help on Rutland County veterans, so long as any needs exist here.

Other possible recipients of chapter aid included the Rutland City Rescue Mission, which offers shelter, food and other assistance to the homeless, with a particular emphasis on veterans. Andy said he would check with the Mission's director as well, to see if it had special needs. Bill Ellwood suggested we might extend aid to individual vets being served by the Mission.



Chapter 1 provided the plaque shown above at West Rutland American Legion Post 87. The plaque accompanies the marble bust from the original sculpture

Richard Reed suggested Friends of Veterans, based in White River Junction and serving vets in both New Hampshire and Vermont, might merit assistance, as well as those served by the Vermont Veterans Fund. The latter is primarily funded by checkoff donations on the Vermont tax return. Andy Megrath sits on the committee that allocates the taxpayer funds raised. Besides taxpayer check-offs, the group accepts donations, according to Richard. Andy said he would also visit the Friends of Veterans office in White River when he visits the area in the near future.

The service officer program supported by the Vermont State Council is another beneficiary of the chapter's help that we might assist in the future. The State Council will meet via Zoom on Jan. 21 at 11 a.m.

Richard Reed will work on setting up a visit to Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven sometime in the near future for chapter members to thank Shaun and Danielle Tomasi for the financial support they have provided over the years through the sale of break-open tickets. Jack will send out an email when a date is selected. It will probably be on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday at lunchtime.

Bill Ellwood reported that the updated Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been posted on the Chapter 1 website, www.vietnamvetschapter1.org, and appears on the Rutland Historical Society website. Bill will see to it that a second location on the Historical Society site is also updated. Bill suggested "freshening up" the chapter's website with pictures more specific to our chapter. Members are welcome to make suggestions. Send them to Bill at rutlandvvaarchives@gmail.com. Bill will come back with some suggestions. He mentioned a rotating selection of images as a possibility.

Richard Reed reported on the PACT Act of 2022, which expands benefits and health care for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxins during their service. President Joe Biden signed the bill into law in August 2022. It went into effect January 1. According to the VA (the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) the law adds to the list of health conditions that the VA "presumes" are caused by exposure to these substances. The law helps veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned. Richard noted that two "presumptive" conditions relevant to Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange include high blood pressure and "monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance." The "presumptive," label means you don't have to prove that your military service caused the condition you are experiencing. More information on the new PACT law is available here <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>.

"The big thing there is that Vietnam era veterans who served in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, they are now in many cases considered presumptively exposed to Agent Orange," Richard said. He assists veterans with claims for VA benefits and said he is putting in a couple of claims based on that expanded eligibility under the PACT law.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, AT 5 P.M.

Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82555931292?pwd=UEt6N1hveFg2SzZtZ3doZWQ0aFpDQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 5593 1292

Passcode: 699806



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

MARCH 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING MARCH 8, 2023

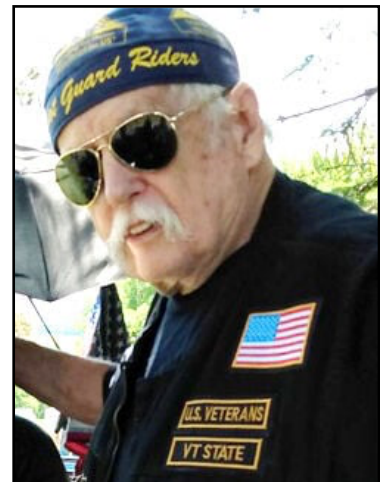
At Chapter 1's Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Dick Doyle, Bill Ellwood, Michael Murphy, and Carl Baldwin. Several guests, including Beth Higgins, Chris Morgan, and John Pisanelli, took part at various times. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported a balance of \$129,172.60 in all of the chapter's accounts. Net income from the sale of break-open tickets for the 2023 fiscal year, which ended in February, was \$26,354.

Beth Higgins, long active in Chapter 1 with her late husband, Bill, reports that her extended effort to have Bill listed in the "Taps" column of The VVA Veteran, VVA national's publication, appears on track, and she expects to see Bill listed in a future edition.

Chris Morgan, director of the Dodge House on Crescent Street, a place for homeless veterans, appeared with a request for financial assistance for increased security equipment, including doorbell cameras and a floodlight camera. The homes for male and female veterans have been largely free of criminal activity until now, she said, but recently have seen drug dealing and the like between their buildings and the Pet Cage store on Crescent Street. Residents of the home have even been stopped on errands. One was stopped by "a few" people and intimidated into giving them some money. "That actually led to a few of them actually coming to the Dodge House and knocking on the door after hours, looking for money," she said. In one case, a local police officer accompanied a vet to a store and warned the harassers to leave the vets alone.



Chapter 1 sadly reports the death of Fred Hellmuth of Pittsford, a life member, on Feb. 15.

Chris said she hoped to install four video doorbells and a floodlight camera at a cost of \$600, with any installation likely covered by an electrician who helps the Dodge House. A period of discussion followed. Andy Megrath suggested that it might be wise to have the doorbells wired to the house wiring, rather than run by batteries. That could increase the initial cost, while saving on batteries.

Chris said local police "are very good about doing a drive-through." Police will sometimes come and eat their lunches parked at the house as a deterrent. She said her hope is to share video footage from the new devices with the police as appropriate. After Chris left the meeting, Richard Reed made a motion to appropriate no less than \$595 and up to \$1,000 to cover the cost of the security equipment, plus installation. Chris Morgan and the Dodge House will decide on the details. It is understood the Dodge House will supply invoices for the expenditures. Seconded by Bill Ellwood. Passed unanimously.

We next talked to John Pisanelli, a member of Chapter 1 who is also commander of VFW Post 648 on Wales St. Chapter 1 has its office on the second floor of the VFW building and pays rent. Post 648 recently had repairs done to its walk-in cooler and has requested assistance with the bill, totaling \$6,450.

Jack Crowther was able to call Pisanelli on his cell phone and connect that way to the chapter Zoom meeting. Richard Reed began by asking whether the VFW post had done any fundraising to contribute to the cost of the repair.

John went over some of the post's efforts. He noted the winner of a rifle raffle donated the prize back to the post. The post will print 750 tickets and charge \$10 per ticket, for example, to raise money through a lottery. Transmission of John's comments were a bit difficult to follow, due to the use of Jack's cell phone.

Dick Doyle jumped in to ask, if Chapter 1 contributed half the requested amount would the post be able to cover the rest. "Yeah, I really think we would," John replied. Referring to past discussion at the VFW about selling the building, John said the post was currently happy with the building and available parking. As Jack relayed from John, the post is currently financially viable. An architect has looked at upstairs rooms at the post as potential housing for traveling nurses, which would be a source of additional income. Home Depot has offered support for work on the building. John said the federal government's COVID relief program had helped with payroll and utility expenses during the pandemic. He also said the post quartermaster, who serves as secretary-treasurer, could answer other questions Chapter 1 might have about the post's financial situation.

John Pisanelli then left the call. After some discussion, Richard Reed moved to donate half the cost of the cooler repair, that is, \$3,225. Seconded by Bill Ellwood. No dissent.

Andy Megrath read a thank-you note from a woman we assisted with the cost of a memorial for her son. The woman, from Danby, is the widow of a Vietnam veteran. Another thank-you note came from Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, which received a recent donation from the chapter of \$2,000. A third note was from a Danby veteran whom the chapter helped with expenses for his truck and a new water heater. The Vermont arm of the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants also acknowledged our recent gift.

We then moved on to nomination of officers and board members for the coming year. Voting takes place at our Annual Meeting in April. Andy Megrath announced that he was stepping down as president, a post he has held since 2004, i.e., 19 years! Andy cited family issues as a reason for stepping down but said he would help his successor with some specialized tasks he has been handling, such as filings with the IRS and notifying VVA national about election of officers. Andy will also be stepping down as vice president of the VVA State Council. He will continue as a member of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council.

In putting forth a slate of officers and board members, Jack Crowther said he typically nominates the current slate, if they are willing to serve. Additional nominations from the membership at large are always welcome.

Tim Lonergan said he was willing to continue as vice president but would not be a candidate for president. Jack Crowther said he would favor folding the chapter if the job of president could not be filled but said he didn't want to foreclose any options, including a reshuffling of the president's duties among others. That might allow someone else to step into the presidency without assuming all the responsibilities that Andy has carried.

There seemed to be a consensus to continue the chapter. "We've made some really solid contributions in the last few years, at least I think," said Dick Doyle, implying we should continue. "Let's not scuttle the boat before it starts sinking," said Richard Reed. Bill Ellwood expressed an interest in a formal delineation of presidential duties. Michael Murphy, who lives in Virginia, offered to help to the degree possible, given his location.

As it was, Jack proposed the following slate of officers and directors for the year ahead: president, vacant; vice president, Tim Lonergan; treasurer, Richard Reed; secretary, Jack Crowther; trustees, Dick Doyle, Michael Murphy, Carl Baldwin, Bill Ellwood, and Cliff Adams.

The day after the meeting, discussions on the leadership issue continued. As secretary, I'll say that it appears we can work out a plan to continue Chapter 1 with some reshuffling of duties. My own view is that we need a clearly designated president, albeit with a lighter workload. Without jumping to conclusions, I think something will be worked out. In the meantime, members should feel free to weigh in at the annual meet, the Zoom link to which is listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, AT 5 P.M.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

APRIL 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING APRIL 12, 2023

At Chapter 1's Annual Meeting, held on the Zoom app, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Dick Doyle, Bill Ellwood, Michael Murphy, and Cliff Adams. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed's report was approved unanimously.

Andy Megrath reported on a meeting of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee. The committee discussed a bill, H. 168, dealing with a veterans database, a waiver of certain motor vehicles registration fees and taxation of military retirement income. The chances for the legislation aren't good, Andy said. Details on the bill and its current status can be found here

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.168>

Andy urged vets to register with the VA health insurance program, even if you do not currently need it, before an Oct. 1 deadline. Being registered will help in applying for a military service disability in the future, as well as securing the insurance coverage itself. There are no income limits to sign up, Andy said. The form for enrollment and instructions on where to send it can be found online by searching for VA Form 10-10ez.com/.

The 11th Annual Veterans Summit will be held on June 14 at Northern Vermont University's Lyndon Campus from 2 to 9:230 p.m. Details can be found by searching online for "veterans summit northern university." Veterans, military families, and anyone who cares about veterans' issues are invited to attend. The Summit will feature speakers, breakout sessions, and more than 60 veteran service organization exhibitors.

Chapter 1 members are invited to be present at Tomasi's pizza restaurant in Fair Haven Wednesday, April 19, at 1 p.m. for a thank-you gathering with the owners, Danielle and Shaun Tomasi. Tomasi's sale of break-open tickets has been the major source of revenue for Chapter 1 for many years. This visit is planned as a small gesture of appreciation. We will present a modest gift. We hope a bunch of you can make it. An RSVP to me, jack_cr2@yahoo.com, isn't required but would be appreciated. Tomasi's is located at 2 Liberty St., just off the center of town.

Jack Crowther, chair and sole member of the nominating committee, placed the following names in nomination to serve as officers and directors of Chapter 1 for the coming year: Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice



Tom Reardon headed the Chapter 1 Color Guard for a number of years.

Word has been received of the recent passing of Tom Reardon, lately of Middlebury, Indiana. Tom was an active Chapter 1 member, led the Color Guard for a number of years, and chaired the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Annual Recognition Day in 1997. Further details were not available.

president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Andy Megrath, Dick Doyle, Mike Murphy, Carl Baldwin, and Cliff Adams, directors. No other nominations were placed before the meeting, and the slate was unanimously elected. Members thanked retiring president Andy Megrath for his 19 years of dedicated service.

Jack Crowther reported that Save the Children, the charity the chapter has been supporting with monthly \$200 donations directed to Ukraine, can no longer segregate donations to go exclusively to that country's children. It was agreed to make a final \$200 donation in April, fulfilling a decision made in October to continue the donations for six months. In total, Chapter 1 will have donated \$4,400 to Save the Children.

The chapter will explore other avenues to use its resources for good. World Central Kitchen, rated four stars (the highest rating) by the Charity Navigator service, which evaluates charities, was one suggestion. World Central Kitchen is doing extensive work in war-torn Ukraine to feed people.

Cliff Adams gave a brief description of a program he initiated using Homer's *Odyssey* as a discussion theme for small groups of veterans. The ancient Greek epic poem, a staple of college humanities classes, details the return of the main character, Odysseus, or Ulysses (in Latin), from the Trojan War. The parallels to soldiers' return from more modern wars make the study of the *Odyssey* appropriate. Cliff has been involved with three sessions of the discussion group, with prospects good for a much wider program. He said he would like to see a link with Chapter 1 as part of the enterprise, but was specifically not asking for financial support.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, AT 5 P.M.

Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88557887505?pwd=T2RGbWxXcWd4ZldDTWQvZWE3ZTBzZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 5788 7505

Passcode: 997983



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

MAY 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING MAY 10, 2023

At Chapter 1's May meeting, held on the Zoom app, attendees included Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Andy Megrath, Michael Murphy, Cliff Adams, and Carl Baldwin. Also attending were Larry Gold and Doug MacPhee. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed presented his report, which was unanimously approved.

Richard Reed reported on the State Council meeting in April. "The main item that came up in the course of the meeting was concern among chapters who are losing members and kind of losing ground," he said. "We've already lost at least one chapter in Vermont that I know of, the Essex Junction chapter. I know Bristol is hanging on by a thread. Apparently some of the others are, too."

A topic that has come up at the national level, Richard said, is chapters being absorbed by other chapters. Chapter 1 could be a new home for VVA members of disbanded chapters, he suggested. "So my concept is, 'Chapter 1, first in the nation, last to leave,'" Richard said, with a discernible twinkle in his eye.

Andy Megrath, president for the last 19 years before his recent retirement and election as a board member, said that if a chapter disbands, the members become VVA members "at large," unless they transfer to another chapter. Transfer requests are submitted to the receiving chapter, which submits the transfer to the State Council and VVA national, Andy said. Bill Ellwood thought it would be good to pursue the idea of recruiting members of closing chapters.

Richard said the next State Council meeting will be June 10 at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. Members are invited to attend the meeting, which features a cookout tended by VVA members. Cooking will begin at 11 a.m.

There was some discussion of establishing a chapter email address to receive messages generated by people visiting the chapter's website, vietnamvetschapter1.org. The consensus was to create a chapter email address.



Chapter 1 Secretary Jack Crowther presented a framed picture of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Danielle Tomasi, co-owner of Tomasi's Tavern in Fair Haven, on April 19. The gift was a thank-you for the years of support Tomasi's has provided Chapter 1 through the sale of break-open tickets.

Andy Megrath said Chapter 1's tax form has been accepted by the IRS. The financial report is ready to go to the state, he said. The election report is ready to go with the addition of Richard Reed as State Council rep. The chapter is entitled to three State Council representatives. Anyone interested in taking part in these meetings can let Richard Reed know.

Andy reported that the Dodge House, which provides temporary housing for homeless veterans, has closed and that the longtime director, Chris Morgan, has been terminated. Chapter 1 has supported Chris and the Dodge House for many years. We recently approved money for security cameras at the facility, but paused the donation when we learned of the upheaval in its operation. The board of the Dodge House reportedly decided no security system was needed.

Morgan has worked for the Veterans Assistance Office, located at the Dodge House, for about 17 years. In November 2019 the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued her a certificate of appreciation for her work with veterans.

Under new business, Larry Gold reported that a "ski buddy" had spoken to him about donating a condominium to a veterans organization upon her death, the suggestion from Larry being that Chapter 1 might be such an organization. This triggered a discussion of some length about whether and how Chapter 1 might respond to a concrete offer, if it occurred. Carl Baldwin weighed in on tax accounting issues involved in a gift like that. Questions arose about a non-profit like Chapter 1 getting involved in managing a property such as a condo. Richard Reed advised "extreme caution," noting "We have no business in the property management business." He also asked of the chapter, "What is our intention going forward, in terms of the money we have and the existence of the chapter. I think there are some very big existential questions that we need to address right away."

Bill Ellwood summarized things by suggesting we convey to Larry's friend that the chapter is interested in what the offer would be, noting as well the chapter is not in the property management business. Also, as Larry Gold observed, it's possible the owner of the property could actually outlive Chapter 1. Bill enlarged the discussion by saying an issue he wants to pursue is exploring whether the chapter might designate a trust to receive Chapter 1 funds when the chapter closes down.

Moving on to possible donations to charities, Michael Murphy reported he had reached out to Rutland City's Open Door Mission, which offers services specifically to veterans, as well as others, to learn what needs of the mission Chapter 1 might be able to fulfill. So far he has not heard back, despite multiple efforts to contact the manager.

Jack Crowther, reporting on two charities he had researched, proposed donating \$500 a month for a year to No One Left Behind and \$200 a month for a year to Save the Children. He noted that the chapter has supported both charities in the past and that both are rated four stars, the highest rating, by Charity Navigator, which evaluates charities based on four criteria: 1) Impact & Results, 2) Accountability & Finance, 3) Leadership & Adaptability, and 4) Culture & Community. Details on the criteria and the two charities' ratings can be found at charitynavigator.org. Mike Murphy seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. The roles of the two charities have been described in previous newsletters.

The chapter will continue to explore charitable giving opportunities in the future. One particular charity previously mentioned was World Central Kitchen, which has been active in feeding people in Ukraine.

Bill Ellwood announced that Chapter 1's chaplain, the Rev. Pete Hults, will be giving a Memorial Day sermon Sunday, May 28, at 10 a.m. at the United Church of West Rutland. The church is at 60 Chapel St., just a block from the town hall. Chapter 1 members in the area are invited. Although Pete is retiring next month from his pastoral duties at the church, he is interested in working in the future with the chapter. In that regard, Bill is interested in arranging visits to veterans in nursing homes and hospitals, using volunteers who might be interested. Bill also suggested the chapter could sponsor a veterans meal, possibly collaborating with one of the other organizations that provides meals to the needy.

In a final note, Andy Megrath reported that the Patriot Guard motorcycle group would be providing an escort for the funeral Saturday for Fred Hellmuth of Pittsford, a life member who died Feb. 15.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, AT 5 P.M.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

JUNE 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING JUNE 14, 2023

At Chapter 1's June meeting, held on the Zoom app, attendees included Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Richard Doyle, Michael Murphy, Cliff Adams, and Carl Baldwin. Also attending were members Larry Gold and Doug MacPhee. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed's report was approved unanimously.

President Bill Ellwood reported the chapter has 130 regular members. We also have about five associate members. About 50 receive the newsletter by U.S. Mail. Other members receive the newsletter via email, saving us postage.

Richard Reed said the next State Council meeting will be at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington on June 24. VVA members from around the state prepare a cookout for the residents.

Dick Doyle has acquired a contact number from VVA national for resolving problems with bad addresses of members.

Mike Murphy reported on his inquiries with the Rutland Open Door Mission, a homeless shelter and soup kitchen that makes special efforts on behalf of veterans. Mike proposed a contribution of \$2,000, based on estimates, to supply the mission with 800-900 bedspreads and 8-10 folding chairs, specifically designated for the veterans residents.

After some discussion about mechanics of paying for the items needed, Richard Reed moved to approve up to \$2,000 for the bedspreads and chairs and work out the details of paying invoices directly or reimbursing the Mission after the purchase. Seconded by Jack Crowther. Passed without dissent.

Bill Ellwood reported that the Rev. Pete Hults, Chapter 1 chaplain and recently retired pastor of the United Church of West Rutland, will continue his ministry with Chapter 1. Bill recruited him to visit with local veterans as the need arises.

The National Convention of VVA national will take place in Orlando, Fla., during the first part of August. Chapter 1 is entitled to three representatives, and Bill invited officers and board members who might be interested to say so.

Jack Crowther reported on a conversation with a Rutland Herald reporter about the Dodge House, which has provided transitional housing for homeless vets until its recent closing. Jack said his conversation indicated the Dodge House might be reopening soon. Larry Gold said he had heard the same thing. Following our meeting, Mayor Mike Doenges was quoted in the Herald as saying there were about 10 homeless vets in the Rutland area. Based on that statement and support from a couple of officers, Jack contacted the mayor by email and informed him the Chapter might be able to help financially with the issue. As of this writing, he had not heard back from the mayor.

Richard Doyle shared information on the Leatherstocking Honor Flight program. It is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization affiliated with the National Honor Flight Network. The program recognizes American veterans “by flying them to Washington, D.C., for a day to experience their memorial at no cost. Top priority is given to WW II veterans and a terminally ill veteran from any war.” Two Honor Flights from Albany, N.Y., will be held, on Saturday, Sept. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 14. Application forms and further information may be found at leatherstockinghonorflightny.org. Disabled vets can bring someone to assist them.

Bill renewed the topic of the chapter holding a Veterans Recognition Dinner to bring Chapter 1 members together and recognize special contributions. To allow for planning, fall would be a likely time for such an event, and Bill suggested the Rutland Country Club as a possible location.

Dick Doyle suggested the chapter might pay for members’ dinners, with guests being asked to pay for their dinners. Bill Ellwood said he would seek a venue for the dinner. Richard Reed said we may be able to obtain a resolution when the Vermont Legislature convenes the next time. Larry Gold volunteered to help with whatever was necessary.

Chapter 1 held a 25th Anniversary dinner in April 2005 attended by national VVA President Tom Corey, Gov. James Douglas and his wife Dorothy, and Rutland Mayor John Cassarino. About 90 people attended. That was our last social gathering.

Bill Ellwood asked about needing authorization for purchasing office supplies. Treasurer Richard Reed said if it was a matter of routine expenditures, Bill could just put them on the credit card.

Jack Crowther said we have a stash of Chapter 1 patches, which we routinely give to members, although we haven’t always done so. Dick Doyle said we should be making them available to new members.

Bill Ellwood spoke of his interest in refreshing the chapter website, vietnamvetschapter1.org, to make it more current, “so the members have something to go look at.” “It’s kind of been a static thing,” Bill said. Some of the links don’t work. Larry Gold said he would be able to help.

Bill also threw out the idea of members gathering occasionally in a social setting, such as a breakfast, and participating in parades. Bill invited anyone interested to contact him. Also, anyone interested in serving as a speaker for the organization can likewise contact Bill. Board member Andy McGrath, until recently our president, has spoken to school groups on a number of occasions.

Bill also floated the idea of a hybrid meeting format, that is, a combined in-person and Zoom meeting, allowing members to participate in person if they don't have computer connections. The VFW building where Chapter 1 has its offices, does have wifi service.

Larry Gold, a new member, generously offered to supply the chapter with a computer, if needed for its functions. That could help, among other ways, if the chapter began the hybrid meeting structure mentioned above, using the office at the VFW. Larry also is interested in motorcycle riding and asked about any vet group that might function in support of charity work. We referred him to Andy Megrath has been active on that front as a member of the Patriot Guard, motorcycle group, as well as the Red Knights, a firefighter motorcycle outfit.

In settling on a time for our next meeting, it was agreed that planning for our Veterans Recognition Dinner could continue with several members meeting as a committee, rather the full membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9, AT 4:30 P.M.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

AUGUST 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING AUGUST 9, 2023

At Chapter 1's August meeting, held on the Zoom app, attendees included Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Director Michael Murphy. Also attending was member Larry Gold. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The host of the Zoom meeting, Secretary Jack Crowther, had trouble launching the meeting, resulting in a decision to cancel the meeting. Almost immediately, Jack was able to access his Zoom account, resulting in a reversal of the cancellation. We emailed and called people who usually attend and decide to hold the meeting. Apologies to anyone who wanted to take part and couldn't.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter with one correction. The June newsletter erroneously stated the chapter was buying 800-900 bedspreads for the Rutland Open Door Mission, which serves a significant veteran population. The newsletter should have stated the chapter had approved spending \$800-\$900 for bedspreads.

Treasurer Richard Reed's report was approved unanimously.

President Bill Ellwood reviewed a proposal from Baxter's Restaurant at the Rutland Country Club for a Chapter 1 celebratory luncheon or dinner this fall. Previously discussed, the event would celebrate the chapter's history and achievements as the first Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in the country and would allow us to pay tribute to individuals who have made important contributions to the chapter.

Bill and Jack Crowther, who met with Brittany Chase at Baxter's, favored a weekday luncheon event because of its lower cost, about \$32 per person, which would include two main dishes as part of a buffet-style meal, non-alcoholic beverages, and use of the banquet room. An advantage of a noontime event is that it would allow those attending to avoid driving at night. A podium and audio-visual hookup would be provided.

As a veterans group, we would have the banquet room fee waived for a weekday event, and our tax-exempt status will allow us to avoid taxes.

Bill and Jack's proposal for a \$4,000 expenditure would anticipate up to 100 guests at \$32 apiece, along with \$500 for any printed material, tokens, or giveaways. The proposal was for the chapter to pay the cost for a member and guest, and the cost for specially invited guests.

Jack made a motion to allocate \$4,000 for the banquet, as defined above. Seconded by Richard Reed.

In discussing the efforts involved in putting on the banquet, Bill said he would put together a program and would talk about the future direction of the chapter. He'll also plan to recognize individuals inside and outside the chapter for contributions to our work. One such thank-you would go to the Rutland Historical Society for assistance in archiving our records.

Jack Crowther has begun work on a slide show recapping the Chapter 1 history and activities. Still needed will be someone agreeing to keep track of RSVPs and provide a head count for the country club.

Mike Murphy suggested the chapter needed to be outgoing in recruiting people to take part and offered to help with an effort to call members.

Jack raised the question of whether to open the event to non-members interested in attending and willing to pay to attend. Jack suggested that in line with the presumed chapter goal of greater visibility, it would make sense to invite the public to the event at a cost-per-ticket. That idea lacked support, however, partly because it would add to the burden of keeping track of signups and payments.

Tim Lonergan spoke in favor of the noon event and favored paying for those who attend. Richard Reed emphasized the need for an RSVP date sufficient to give the country club notice of the number attending. Bill Ellwood suggested "honor the veterans" as a theme for the event.

Final wording of the motion specified a \$4,000 allocation to put on a luncheon in October and allow Bill Ellwood to set a date. The motion passed unanimously. A planning committee will meet as needed to firm up details of the event.

Richard Reed said the next VVA State Council meeting will be Sept. 16 at 11 a.m. at the Chapter 1 offices, but he will be away. Jack Crowther and Tim Lonergan will see to opening the office and providing refreshments.

Tim Lonergan suggested that some flood relief assistance would be an appropriate use of chapter funds. The suggestion had also come from Pete Hults, our chaplain. Bill Ellwood suggested we do some research on a proper recipient of such assistance. Mike Murphy noted he was in touch with a city alderman and could use that connection in figuring out how the chapter might help with flood relief.

Two days after our meeting, on Aug. 11, Jack met with Rutland Mayor Mike Doenges to explore ways Chapter 1 might help homeless vets in Rutland and flood recovery. Jack suggested to the mayor that it might be possible for the chapter to "set aside" an amount of money to assist homeless vets and flood recovery on a case-by-case basis if the need were judged legitimate by city officials. Establishment of such a fund would of course be subject to members' approval at a regular Chapter 1 meeting.

Mayor Doenges was receptive to the idea and mentioned a couple of things in the works, including the planned reopening of the Dodge House for homeless veterans, a small housing complex designated for veterans on North Main Street in the old Mr. C's building, and the ongoing efforts of Richard Gallo, a veterans outreach specialist. He suggested the chapter make contact with the city's Project Vision at one of their weekly luncheons on Tuesday at the Rutland City Police Department.

Project Vision describes itself as "a coalition of over 400 partners in the Rutland area" that strives "to create an environment of collaboration where each of us can work together to expand community engagement, build great neighborhoods, and improve public health."

The mayor suggested that Project Vision often encounters needs of the type Jack was describing. Jack plans to attend the Tuesday meeting and explore opportunities for Chapter 1 to be helpful. The mayor said he would touch base with Project Vision following the Tuesday meeting.

Switching to the question of social opportunities for Chapter 1 members, Jack noted a gathering of vets on the second Tuesday of the month at Denny's. Tim Lonergan had attended the breakfast the day before and commended Richard Gallo, the veterans outreach specialist, for a presentation on the Pact Act for veterans health services. Tim said one should show up between 9 and 9:30 a.m. to take part in the breakfasts.

The final issue discussed was having a "hybrid" meeting for the chapter, whereby members without internet service could come to the Chapter 1 offices on Wales Street and take part in our usual Zoom meeting using an internet connection at the office. Larry Gold has agreed to help work out the setup, which involves a large-screen TV and a couple of laptop computers. We will try to implement that for our next meeting, Sept. 13. Andy Megrath has offered us a 32-inch television to be used in the setup.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13, AT 4:30 P.M.

NOTE THE TIME!

Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559910704?pwd=U05wZUozWXQzV09pZVVOUU5xRGUrQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 5991 0704

Passcode: 068619



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

SEPTEMBER 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

At Chapter 1's September meeting, held on the Zoom app and in person at our office at the VFW, attendees included Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Directors Michael Murphy, Dick Doyle, and Carl Baldwin; and members Larry Gold, Mike Divoll and John Pisanelli. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that \$1,127 for Rutland's Open Door Mission for chairs the chapter agreed to donate has not been paid, as we have received no invoice. "It looks like we're going to pay taxes this year," he noted, based on the overall picture. "That's okay, there are worse things in the world." Richard said he thought he could handle the filing. "It's not that complicated," he said. The report was approved unanimously.

President Bill Ellwood ordered a new American flag and a new POW/MIA flag for the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park, as both are becoming tattered. The cost is \$170 for the flags, made of a durable, Tough Tex material.

Membership Chair Dick Doyle said updates to our membership list researched by Mike Murphy and Larry Gold have started to appear on the official VVA national roster. Membership currently stands at 127, down slightly as a result of the deaths of Bill Whitney, Fred Hellmuth, and Scott Lobdell. Meanwhile, Dave Posner transferred out to a Florida chapter. Two renewed memberships are pending submission of DD 214 records, which Jack Crowther and Bill Ellwood will pursue. Bill and Dick have recruited a couple of others likely to be joining. Larry Gold noted that he and Michael Murphy had attempted to call 60 people on the Chapter 1 roster to update contact information. Some on the roster had no email address and lacked a working phone number. He asked if an attempt should be made to snail-mail them to get better contact information. Dick Doyle suggested getting all the recent updates logged in and then working on the names Larry was concerned about. "We'll come up with something in the future that tries to further refine our connection to our members," Dick said. Tim Lonergan said our snail mail list for the newsletter stands at 48.

Chapter 1 members who have email are encouraged to have us email this newsletter, as it saves on postage and handling of the newsletter. Just send an email to vietnamvetschapter1@gmail.com.

Bill said that as of that afternoon, there were 22 people committed to attending the Chapter 1 celebratory luncheon Oct. 11 at the Rutland Country Club. The deadline for responses to the invitation is Sept. 22.

Treasurer Richard Reed asked for some clarity on the chapter's policy when awarding grants for various kinds of assistance. Noting that "we don't have a process," he said the chapter needed guidelines. Richard will prepare a guideline. Carl Baldwin, with his accounting background, will provide guidance as necessary. Bill said the goal was not to create excessive red tape but to clarify the procedure to be followed. Richard said the procedure he was talking about would allow the chapter to "justify" its financial operations when someone in the future asks for a

justification. The secretary notes that standard practice for some time has been not to directly pay the person being helped but rather the vendor providing the help, upon receipt of an invoice.

Richard also requested a resumption of mileage payments for driving to Fair Haven to pick up the break-open tickets from Tomasi's Tavern, as well as the \$50 stipend for attending State Council meetings outside Rutland. Both practices had been suspended during the pandemic. The chapter will resume this practice. The mileage rate is 50.4 cents per mile according to State Council practice, considerably lower than the federal IRS rate for tax purposes. It was noted that Richard has been elected vice president of the State Council.

Jack Crowther said he had been able to reach Chris Morgan, former director of the Dodge House for homeless veterans, in order to invite her to the Oct. 11 luncheon. She'll be invited to say a few words. Jack said he was disturbed by Chris's account of her recent ouster. The Dodge House remains closed since Chris's departure.

Jack reviewed his recent outreach to Rutland's Project Vision and to the developer of the eight-unit housing project at 146 North Main St. in Rutland. It is the site of the former Mr. C's fish market. The project is being developed by Stephen Box, who is working with an official of the VA. Neither has responded with a specific request, though they were invited to this meeting.

Bill Ellwood proposed buying hats for the members, to be distributed at the luncheon and given to new members in the future. The consensus was to provide a black hat with the name of the chapter and a "First in the Nation" tag line. Also to be given away will be a copy of the slide show that Jack Crowther has prepared, along with a copy of the archive of Chapter 1 documents, including more than 900 scanned documents and photos. The meeting approved an expenditure of \$243 to pay for 40 flash drives to be given away at the luncheon. The drives will have the Chapter 1 logo printed on it and enough extra space for people to use for storage of photos and other documents. A motion to approve the expenditure was unanimously approved. Also available at the luncheon will be a collection of marble chips from the marble sculpture at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Larry Gold and Jack Crowther will order a cake with the chapter logo and appropriate wording.

Bill Ellwood noted that he and Jack had selected the baked haddock and penne with meatballs as the entrees offered with the buffet luncheon. This was done in consultation with Brittany Chase of Baxter's Restaurant. Baxter's also has the ability to accommodate persons with specific dietary restrictions.

A Vets Town Hall will be held Nov. 3 in Rutland at 6 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St. The web site for the Town Hall programs states, "At a Vets Town Hall, veterans of any era who served in any capacity are invited to stand before their community and speak for up to ten minutes about what it was like to serve their country. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. There will be no debate on American foreign policy. We will simply listen and learn about what it was like to serve in the wars that this nation has chosen to fight. Further information can be found at vtvetstownhall.org.

In a final note, Dick said he expected to bring a dozen membership applications to the luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8, AT 4:30 P.M.
BY ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT THE CHAPTER 1 OFFICE AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND**

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559910704?pwd=U05wZUozWXQzV09pZVVOUU5xRGUrQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 5991 0704

Passcode: 068619



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

NOVEMBER 2023



Scenes from Chapter 1 Luncheon

Reviews from Chapter 1's Oct. 11 "Honor Our Vietnam Era Veterans" luncheon at the Rutland Country Club have been uniformly positive. Above photo shows some of the 60 guests. At top right, Chapter 1 President Bill Ellwood introduces past presidents of the chapter. From left to right are Andy Megrath, John Bergeron, Mike Divoll, and Mark Truhan. (Missing: Don Bodette*, Jake Jacobsen,* and Steve Faye.) Current cake technology enabled us to have the Chapter 1 logo on the large sheet cake that served as our dessert.

*Deceased.



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2023

At Chapter 1's November meeting, held on the Zoom app and in person at our office at the VFW, attendees included Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Directors Andy Megrath, Michael Murphy and Carl Baldwin; and members Larry Gold, Mike Divoll, John Pisanelli, Tom Rousseau, and Mark Truhan. This was the largest turnout in recent memory.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed gave his report on the chapter's accounts. He noted that the savings and checking accounts with Heritage Family Credit Union earn a quarter of a percent interest. Richard said he plans to meet with the bank to find out why the chapter needs three accounts, the third being a money market account. The report was unanimously approved.

Bill Ellwood reported the chapter has 130 members, including new signups. New members include Dave Gouchoe, Norman Hawley, and Marty McDonough. Bill Whiteman and Albert and Mary Trombley are rejoining members. Having been early members of Chapter 1, the chapter is sponsoring life memberships for them.

Luncheon a success

Looking back on the chapter's celebratory luncheon on Oct. 11, Bill said, "I felt the luncheon was very successful. We had 60 people attending. There were probably 20 or so that are actually chapter members. There were some other veterans that are eligible for chapter membership. Everybody that I've talked to gave me positive feedback on it. They enjoyed it; they enjoyed the presentations that were given. They thought the food was good. So I felt that it was a very positive experience, worth what we invested in it, to generate some interest. And hopefully we're going to get more participation going forward. I appreciate everyone's efforts that were put into it to make it good." Others spoke up to agree with that assessment. Bill is thinking of it as a "trial run" for the chapter's 45th anniversary in April of 2025, the chapter having been chartered as the first in the nation in April 1980.

Andy Megrath expressed his appreciation for the tributes paid to him, as the luncheon was dedicated to him in honor of his 19 years of service as president of the chapter. "Even though they threw me under the bus," he quipped, referring to the fact that it was a surprise.

Bill said he was the guest speaker at the Rutland Historical Society's annual meeting. The society has partnered with us in making the chapter's digital archives — a collection of more than 900 files — available on its website and in its collections. Bill noted that four members of the chapter attended the Veterans Town Hall Nov. 3 in Rutland. Bill and Andy Megrath spoke at the event, designed to allow vets to share their experiences. Bill hopes to see the chapter more involved in future sessions of the town halls.

As part of his efforts to boost chapter membership, Bill used his recent attendance at a West Rutland American Legion breakfast to recruit a new member. He encouraged Chapter 1 members to attend the informal veterans breakfasts at Denny's at 9 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, the next being Nov. 14.

Jack Crowther said that while the chapter is trying to find ways to donate its money, "It's proving to be not as easy as you would think." He noted approaches he has made to Rutland's Project Vision, the mayor's office, and the housing project for veterans at 140 North Main St. to offer the chapter's assistance. So far, though, there have been no specific requests.

Dodge House Status

Larry Gold asked about the Dodge House for homeless vets, which has been closed for several months. In the past, Chapter 1 has supported Dodge House, which was named for Michael Dodge, a Vietnam veteran. A project spearheaded by Robert Rummel, also a Vietnam veteran, Dodge House formally opened in 1998.

John Pisanelli said he had received a notice that the Dodge House was reopening at the end of the month. Post 31 of the American Legion appears to have the lead in the home's operation following a shakeup of the administration for the house.

Chapter 1 has not received information on the status of the Dodge House, despite its longstanding relationship. Bill Ellwood asked John Pisanelli to forward the information he had. "We do want to help the

Dodge House, if we can,” Bill said. Chapter 1 had approved spending \$400 for security cameras at the Dodge House, but that was never paid because of the upheaval in the operation. Bill proposed removing that money from the chapter’s “committed funds,” in light of the changed situation. Tim seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Guidelines for Chapter 1 donations

Richard Reed, as treasurer, proposed guidelines for how the chapter responds to requests for assistance. Prior to the meeting, Jack Crowther suggested some tweaks to the guidelines, which Richard largely agreed with. As drafted or agreed to by Richard, the policy would require, among other things: 1) an amount requested and statement of need, 2) proof that an individual is a veteran or proof of the charitable purpose of the organization seeking help, 3) that a landlord, utility company or someone else providing goods or services receive the money, not just the needy individual or organization, 4) and that the expenditure be approved by the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting, except as permitted in the chapter bylaws. (The bylaws allow an expenditure of up to \$1,000 between meetings, if approved by a majority of the board and officers.) The policy will be taken up at a future meeting. “We don’t want to make a big bureaucratic mess, but we want to make sure we’re giving it out to people that need the help,” Bill said.

Tim Lonergan has been a volunteer with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports for 12 years, helping the non-profit provide services to the handicapped. Headquartered at the Pico Mountain Ski Resort, Vermont Adaptive includes programs specifically tailored to veterans. Tim has annually made a request for financial support, this year requesting \$2,500, an increase from \$2,000 for the past year. There are about 400 volunteers involved, but adapting bicycles, skis and other equipment to the handicapped is expensive, Tim noted. Rock climbing is another activity. “Well over 300” veterans take part in the program yearly, spread over four seasons, Tim said. He said that by making the donation on “Giving Tuesday,” after Thanksgiving, the donation would be matched by a benefactor. Tim then made a motion to donate \$2,500 to Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports. Seconded by Jack Crowther. Passed unanimously.

The chapter voted to reimburse Jack Crowther \$149.90 for his Zoom membership, which the chapter has been using for its meetings. Jack was also granted permission to use Zoom for any other need he has. Larry Gold pointed out that, looking to the future, the chapter needs to have its own email address tied to the Zoom account. That way, if Jack were not available, other members of the chapter could have access to the account and the means to verify their status as legitimate users.

President’s message: Looking forward

Outlining some goals for the future, Bill Ellwood said he’d like to see some revisions to the chapter website, including a less static format. As an example, the site could be used to inform members and the public of coming events. “The end goal will be that chapter members would go look at our website periodically to see what’s going on” he said. “Plus the public can see the background information that we still have out there, which is good information.”

Bill said he’s interested in boosting the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, or AVVA, a subgroup of the chapter open to people interested in taking part in chapter activities but not eligible for regular membership. He proposed the chapter sponsor a life membership for Beth Higgins, a former AVVA member and chapter secretary. Andy Megrath made a motion to pay for her membership. Seconded by Tim Lonergan. The motion was then amended to extend the offer of a free life membership to any past AVVA member who wanted to rejoin. Passed unanimously. This mirrors the chapter’s earlier decision to pay for life memberships for any former members interested in rejoining. In the case of financial hardship, the chapter could vote to pay the membership of someone who wanted to join AVVA but found the price too steep.

Bill laid out a plan to establish committees for different projects, offering as an example, a group to visit veterans who might be shut in or otherwise would benefit from company. Our chaplain, Pete Hults, has expressed interest in doing that, as has John Sabataso, a Vietnam era vet. Other potential future activities Bill offered up included social gatherings, updating the website, coordinating our activities with other

veterans organizations, and an IT-and-Social-Media Committee. (IT stands for internet technology.) He'd also like to see the chapter's office spruced up. Summarizing, he said, "We're still going with the philosophy that [we were] the first chapter in, we're gonna be the last one to go. So we gotta keep doing stuff. And even if we fail to get much momentum going, we'll still keep going. We could keep going as we have been doing, but it's good to try to revive things up and do more." Richard Reed quipped, "Just remember we're old guys. Making us to move fast . . ."

Assistance provided

At the conclusion of the meeting, we heard a request for assistance from a member facing the shutoff of his electricity, due to his owing \$436.31. That represents 3-4 months of electric service, he said. The member said that he expected to get some assistance from another program, but needed the help now to forestall the shutoff. This member had received some help from the chapter several years ago for heating assistance. Richard Reed moved to provide the full amount owed and proposed that the check be made out to the member and Green Mountain Power. That was in accord with the guidelines being proposed for assisting those in need. Seconded by Andy Megrath. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10, AT 4:30 P.M.
BY ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT THE CHAPTER 1 OFFICE AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND**

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81230871900?pwd=VVo5Z1E3MHd6b0djZjVnT3d5RWVuUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 3087 1900

Passcode: 531465